

Anh N. Duong
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Department of Homeland Security – Science & Technology Directorate



Mrs. Duong came to the United States at the age of 15 as a refugee after the fall of South Viet Nam in 1975. She graduated Cum Laude in Chemical Engineering and in Computer Science from the University of Maryland and earned a M.S. in Public Administration with Honors from the American University.

Because of her background, Mrs. Duong feels deeply indebted to those who protected her freedom and security and chose public service as a way to pay back. Before joining Department of Homeland Security, she spent 25 years working in Naval Science and Technology and is a recognized expert in explosives. She directed all U.S. Navy explosives research and development and had put 10 new explosives into 18 different U.S. weapons in the 1990's. This accomplishment was cited for her receipt of the Dr. Arthur Bisson Award for Naval Technology Achievement in 2000. Mrs. Duong is most well known for her thermobaric weapon created to defeat tunnels and bunkers used as terrorist hideouts. In only 67 days, her team of nearly 100 scientists, engineers and technicians successfully went from concept of development to fielding of the U.S. first thermobaric bomb for use in Afghanistan. This earned Mrs. Duong the Civilian Meritorious Medal in 2002.

From 2005 to 2008, Mrs. Duong served as Science Advisor to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information, Plans and Strategy, and to the Director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. With a focus on the Global War on Terror, she directed many successful efforts to transform science and technology into anti-terrorism and force protection capabilities. One example is the rapid creation of mobile, modular forensic labs in Iraq and Afghanistan which earned Mrs. Duong the Superior Civilian Service Medal from the Navy.

Mrs. Duong was sworn in as a Senior Executive in 2008, when she became Director of Borders and Maritime Security Division in the Science & Technology Directorate of Homeland Security Dept. In this present position, Mrs. Duong focuses on the technical dimension of US sea/land/air border and cargo security challenges.

Mrs. Duong's talents and leadership are well recognized. She has been featured on news media (Newsweek, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Sun, etc., as well as national and international radio and television networks). She received the 2004 U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Award of Excellence for Public Service, appeared in the Sundance Festival award-winning documentary film "Why We Fight" and was featured in the book Changing Our World: True Stories of Women Engineers, published by the American Society of Civil Engineers. She was also featured in a Discovery and Military Channel's documentary series as one of the masterminds behind the world's "Future Weapons". In 2007, Mrs. Duong received the Service to America Medal for National Security by the Partnership for Public Service, presented to her by the Secretary of the Navy. In 2008, she received the Outstanding American Citizen By Choice Award presented to her by the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. In 2009 she received the Distinguished Engineering Alumnus Award from the University of Maryland, and in 2010 she was named the 60th Great Federal Employee in the Proceedings of the 111th U.S. Congress.